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Allegiances

[image]

ShadowClan

Leader-Ravenstar-sleek black tom with green eyes

Deputy-Froststep-white tom with icy blue eyes

Medicine Cat- Redwillow-reddish brown she-cat with amber eyes

Warriors-Willowmoon-white she-cat with ginger patches

Lizardheart-brown tom with amber eyes

Apprentice-Thornpaw-golden tabby tom with green eyes

Briarflower-black and white she-cat with green eyes

Apprentice-Flamepaw-orange tabby tom with green eyes

Snaketail-black tabby tom with blue eyes

Apprentice-Mintpaw-pale gray she-cat with green eyes

Beetail-golden tom with black stripes around tail

Apprentice-Smokepaw-smoky gray tom with amber eyes

Buzzardwing-gray muscular tom with amber eyes

Apprentice-Firepaw-orange tom with blue eyes

Dawnfire-brown she-cat with blue eyes

Lilyfoot-black she-cat with amber eyes

Apprentice-Pinepaw-reddish brown she-cat with amber eyes

Whitetail-gray she-cat with white tipped tail

Birdsong-long-haired black tom

Strikefur-ragged gray tabby tom

Stormtooth-small gray tom with crooked teeth

Queens-Bluefeather-blue-gray she-cat with blue eyes

(Expecting Buzzardwing's kits)

Icestorm-white she-cat with blue eyes

(Mother to Sorrelkit(white she-kit) and Stonekit (gray tom)

Moonstorm-gray tabby she-cat icy blue eyes

(mother to Spiderkit(brown tom) and Sunnykit(golden tom) Elders-
Tawneyfur-tortoishell she-cat with green eyes

Owlfeather-gray tom with blind green eyes

ThunderClan

Leader-Berrystar-huge cream colored tabby tom with amber eyes

Deputy-Claweye-smoky gray tom

Medicine Cat-Spireblaze-golden tom with amber eyes

Warriors-Thrushwing-ginger tom with blue eyes

Sagebush-ginger tabby she-cat with soft blue eyes

Rainpelt-mottled gray tom with green eyes

Shorttail-brown tom with a half tail with amber eyes

Twigwhisker-black she-cat with green eyes

Apprentice-Sootpaw-smoky gray she-cat with black tail

Snowfeather-white she-cat with gray stripes

Oakleaf-muscular brown tom

Mouseears-gray she-cat with small ears

Apprentice-Volepaw-gray tabby tom with blue eyes

Queens-Acorndusk-white tabby she-cat with blue eyes

(Expecting Claweye's kits)

WindClan

Leader-Whitestar-white tom

Deputy-Reedwhisker-reddish tom with amber eyes

Medicine Cat-Mistcloud-soft gray tabby she-cat

Apprentice-Leafpaw-brown tabby she cat with icy blue eyes

Warriors-Breezewhisker-black tom

Honeybush-golden she-cat

Cloudeyes-pale gray she-cat with blind blue eyes

Longwhisker-small brown tom with long whiskers

Featherreed-blue-gray she-cat with dark gray stripes

Apprentice-Blackpaw-black tom with blue eyes

Queens-Heatherpelt-tortoishell she-cat

(mother to Sorrelkit(brown she-kit) and Hollykit(black she-kit with blue eyes)

Riverclan

Leader-Stormstar-gray tom

Deputy-Larkwing-ginger tabby she-cat with white paws

Medicine Cat-Poppywing-tortoishell she-cat

Apprentice-Lakepaw-glossy blue-gray she-cat

Warriors-Grassfur-brown tabby she-cat

Apprentice-Silverpaw-gray tom

Blossamflower-cream colored she-cat

Apprentice-Flashpaw-sleek golden tom with amber eyes

Cedarfur-ginger tabby tom

Rushwind-black tom

Apprentice-Squirrelpaw-ginger tabby she-cat

Stonefoot-pale gray tom with dark gray paws

Apprentice-Graypaw-pale gray tabby she-cat

Skyclan

Leader-Blazestar-long-haired orange tabby tom with blue eyes

Deputy-Cherrytail-cream colored tabby she-cat with red tipped tail

Medicine Cat-Moonfur-long-haired gray tabby she-cat

Apprentice-Eaglenose-pale gray tom with white muzzle

Warriors-Sparrowfur-brown tabby she-cat with green eyes

Redfur-reddish tom

Sunclaw-golden tom with blue eyes

Goldendawn-ginger she-cat with blue eyes

Snowwhisker-white she-cat

Dapplenose-mottled tortoiseshell she-cat

Apprentice-Softpaw-small pale gray she-cat

Chapter 1

When will the ceremony start? Flamepaw thought. He was just about to be made a warrior with his brother, Thornpaw. "Are you ready to be a warrior?" His mentor Briarflower brushed her pelt against his. Briarflower has always loved Flamepaw, and he knew it, but Pinepaw and him had always had a special connection. Pinepaw, Firepaw, and Mintpaw were getting their warrior names today too.

"Wanna go catch our last piece of prey as an apprentice?" Thornpaw came up to him in between Flamepaw and Briarflower. "Sure! Want to go to the river? They have the best lizards by the bank." Flamepaw meowed going up in front of his brother. "Be careful, Thornpaw! Don't fall in." The orange apprentice warned. "I won't fall... Aah!" Thornpaw slipped and fell into the river, not being cautious.

"Thornpaw!" Flamepaw yowled, but the current had already carried his brother away. Ravenstar, Lizardheart, and their mother; Willowmoon burst through the bushes and found Flamepaw, terrified. "We have to get him! He was just about to be made a warrior!" Flamepaw wailed. "I'm afraid it's too late, Flamepaw, he's gone." Ravenstar meowed. Willowmoon put her tail around Flamepaw.

"Let's get back to camp, Flamepaw, it's time to get your warrior name. "I'm not going without Thornpaw." Flamepaw protested. "We're going to be late hurry up!" "No!" Flamepaw yowled at his mother. Ravenstar seemed amused at the apprentice's words. He jumped onto the rock and began the ceremony. "Flamepaw, Pinepaw, Firepaw, and Mintpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your Clanmates at every cost?" "I do." the apprentices replied.

"Then from this day forward, you shall be known as Flamewhisker, Pineflame, Firedash, and Mintnose!" "Flamewhisker! Firedash! Pineflame! Mintnose!" "I'm so sorry Thornpaw isn't here to see this."

Mintnose meowed. Maybe Pineflame wasn't meant for him. Maybe Mintnose was. "Someone! Come quick! Bluefeather's having her kits!" Redwillow dashed over to the nursery with a bundle of herbs.

Bluefeather's mate Buzzardwing was already there waiting. "The kits are supposed to be here in a moon!" Redwillow exclaimed. "The first one's coming out! It's a gray she-kit like Bluefeather." Buzzardwing mewed in amusement. "The second one's a golden tom!" Mintnose meowed. "The last one's coming out... it's a ginger she-kit!" Redwillow exclaimed. "I think something's wrong with Bluefeather... I think she's dead!" Buzzardwing wailed.

"Well, what are you going to name the kits, Buzzardwing? You're the father." The medicine cat meowed. "The gray she-kit will be Ashkit, the golden tom will be Lionkit, and the brown she-kit will be Sparkkit." He meowed proudly. "Who will take care of them?" Pineflame mewed. Icestorm came up. "I will."

Chapter 2

When will Mintnose ever notice me? Flamewhisker thought. *I have to tell Pineflame and Briarflower eventually.* "Flamewhisker! Will you come with me on a hunting patrol?" Briarflower came up to him. "Sure! Who else is going?" He asked. "Um, I think Willowmoon, Frostep, Birdsong, Buzzardwing, Firedash, Mintnose, and *Pineflame."* She meowed catching up to him. Her meow went sharp as she said the red warrior's name; Briarflower *obviously* didn't like Pineflame. *Great! I can finally tell Briarflower and Pineflame how I really feel!* When they arrived at the hunting grounds Pineflame came up to him. "Pineflame, I have to tell you something. Sometimes I think that we're not meant for each other. It's way too early to have kits. So, you can't be my mate, I'm sorry." Flamewhisker admitted. "I-I understand." Pineflame stammered as she padded away from him. Flamewhisker looked at his paws in guilt. *That was harder than I expected.* "Hey, Flamewhisker! How's your first day being a warrior? My day's going great! No more cleaning out the elders' den for me! " Mintnose mewed. "Mintnose, I have to ask you something, you might say no." Flamewhisker meowed. "What is it?" She asked. "I've been thinking about it for some time and, well, would you be my mate?" Flamewhisker asked hopefully. Mintnose gasped. "Of course! But what about Pineflame and Briarflower? Do they know?" "I told Pineflame and Briarflower knew it was never meant to be." He admitted. Flamewhisker glanced at Pineflame who was looking at her paws. "Do you want to go back to camp and check on Ashkit, Lionkit, and Sparkkit?" Mintnose mewed. "Sure." They hurried to the nursery to found Icestorm and the three kits. "You must be very proud to look after these kits." Mintnose looked at Icestorm with Sparkkit, Ashkit, and Lionkit huddled next to her sucking her milk. Her own kits, Sorrelkit and Stonekit, had died of whitecough a moon before. "Would you kits like to go on a badger ride?" Mintnose offered. "That's very kind of you, Mintnose. Have you been thinking about having kits of your own?" Icestorm gestured her tail towards Flamewhisker. The orange tom was looking at the kits. The kits got

on Mintnose's back. "Don't fall off!" Mintnose meowed playfully. *I remember when I was still in the nursery with Thornpaw. Scratchpelt would give us badger rides whenever we wanted one before he died.* Flamewhisker missed his father and brother. "Kits! It's time for your nap! Thank you, Mintnose for giving them badger rides." Icestorm meowed. Lionkit bounced out of his mother's paws. "Why do we have to." "Because you're tired." "I'm not tired." "You will be later if you don't take a nap now." "But we want more badger rides with Mintnose!" "Your sisters don't" Ashkit and Sparkkit fell asleep peacefully at their mother's paws. Mintnose rolled her eyes at the kits. She looked at Flamewhisker playfully then pounced on him. "I got you!" "Not if I can get you first!" The two warriors fought playfully then padded back to their nests to sleep. Mintnose huddled up close to Flamewhisker then shut her eyes. *Could Mintnose and I have a connection?*

Chapter 3

"Until you are made warrior, you shall be known as Sunnypaw and Spiderpaw!" "Sunnypaw! Spiderpaw! Sunnypaw! Spiderpaw!" Sunnypaw had been given Buzzardwing, and Spiderpaw had been given Birdsong as their mentors. "Hey, Flamewhisker! Froststep wants you on the border patrol. Hurry, it's leaving now!" Briarflower meowed. "I'm fine. Tell Froststep I would like to stay." "Oh-okay." *The border patrol left earlier.* Was Brairflower trying to talk to him? What did she want to say? He padded up to Mintnose, who was washing herself. "Ow!" She wailed. Flamewhisker's ears pricked as he saw the gray she-cat wailing. "Redwillow! Mintnose is aching! Something might be wrong with her." "Calm down, calm down I'm sure she's just ate too much." Redwillow reassured him. "But she hasn't had any prey yet! Something is wrong!" Flamewhisker wailed. "She seems to have something wrong with her stomach. It looks like she's aching. If it wasn't prey then what could it be?" Redwillow inspected the young warrior's nest for anything that might have caused the pains. "Something feels like it's kicking." Mintnose meowed. "Could this mean..." Redwillow and Mintnose turned their gaze to Flamewhisker, who seemed really nervous. "Flamewhisker, you're going to be a father." Mintnose breathed out. "Great StarClan! Really? When are the kits coming?" The orange tom bounced up and down like a kit. Mintnose joined in. "Now, now, the kits won't be coming soon. They'll probably come in a few moons. Until they become apprentices, Mintnose will have to be in the nursery." The warriors stopped bouncing when they heard that Mintnose would be going to the nursery. "Hey, it won't be so bad. You'll have Icestorm and her kits with you." Flamewhisker pressed his muzzle against Mintnose. The gray she-cat looked worried. "Yeah, it won't be so bad." She sighed. "Plus, you can keep giving Ashkit, Sparkkit, and Lionkit badger rides. I'm sure you'll be fine." Flamewhisker meowed. "Oh yeah, then when our kits come we can give them badger rides." Mintnose meowed. "Well, you should go tell Icestorm you're going to be in the same den with her for a while now." Redwillow meowed while she

gathered her herbs and padded away. A meow made Flamewhisker's head jerked towards Ravenstar. "We've scented a badger near the border, maybe you should send a patrol to see if the badger's still around." Froststep's mew was alarming. Flamewhisker wanted to be on that patrol. He wanted it to be his first battle as a warrior. "I'll go!" He insisted. "Sure, Flamewhisker, you can lead the patrol. You can take Willowmoon, Froststep, Firedash, Briarflower, Smokepaw, Beetail, and Mintnose." The leader croaked. "About Mintnose, she's expecting kits." Ravenstar's eyes went huge. "Oh! Well then you can send the others with you. Be on your way now." *Yes! My first chance for a battle as a warrior and I'm leading it!*

Chapter 4

"We have to be very quiet just in case there is a badger." Froststep murmered quietly"I thought I was leading this patrol, *Froststep*" Flamewhisker snorted at the deputy. "Oh, I thought I was the deputy. Don't blame me when you're eaten alive by the badger." Froststep huffed back. Flamewhisker squeaked. A foul stench hit the air. *A badger's close by! This could be my chance to prove to Froststep that I'm as good as him!* "I can scent a badger!" He exclaimed. A badger jumped out of the bushes and all the cats scrambled. Willowmoon couldn't escape quick enough and the badger scratched her muzzle. She was very alarmed and swiped back at the badger. The badger pinned her down then with it's teeth, it threw Flamewhisker's mother into the distance. He curled his lip and lept and the badger, causing it to run away, whimpering. "That mouse-brained badger won't be coming back for moons!" Froststep chuckled. Flamewhisker ignored his statement. "Mother!" Flamewhisker yowled as he raced after her. Willowmoon was panting as she tried to get up. "Willowmoon! Are you okay? We can still save you!" Flamewhisker meowed. "Scratchpelt, is that you?" Willowmoon meowed. "No. it's me Flamewhisker, your son! We can still save you! Please don't go." "Flamewhisker, is that really you? I want to join Thornpaw and Scratchpelt. I want to spend the last moments of my life with you. Goodbye." Willowmoon's head flung back at Flamewhisker's paw and her eyes went blank. A starry spirit rose up from her body. Another spirit joined in, then another. He could recognize his father and his mother's sister Tansypetal in the spirits, but he couldn't see Thornpaw. Willowmoon and Scratchpelt's tails twined together. They walked up to the stars and Tansypetal followed. Willowmoon was going to StarClan. Flamewhisker's eyes swelled up with tears as he saw the starry cats disappear.Willowmoon's spirit stayed behind and came up to Flamewhisker and buried her muzzle into his fur. "I'll miss you." He heard her faint whisper in his ear. The rest of the patrol came up to him to watch her spirit go up into the night sky. "She'll be fine, up there in StarClan. She's with your father and Thornpaw." Froststep meowed as the patrol bowed their heads at the spirit. Willowmoon

nodded back and then dissapeared. A new star came into the sky, it flashed. Flamewhisker knew his mother was watching him.

Chapter 5

"Willowmoon was a strong, loyal ShadowClan warrior. She died defending her Clan from the badger. We will miss her very much. Now she will be among Clanmates in StarClan and with Scratchpelt and Thornpaw." Ravenstar dipped his head at Willowmoon's dead body. His tail tapped Flamewhisker's shoulder as if it was cue for him to speak. "Willowmoon was the best mother any cat could ask for. I don't know what I'll do without her. She will be with my father and brother among the stars." Flamewhisker dipped his head at the body. *Could that be true? I couldn't see Thornpaw when I saw Willowmoon, Scratchpelt, and Tansypetal's spirits.* Could Thornpaw still be alive? "I remember when Blackfern and I delivered her kits. She was the bravest warrior I knew, and my sister." Redwillow meowed. She clearly missed her sister as much as Flamewhisker did. "Willowmoon, may you find swift hunting in StarClan, and ShadowClan will miss you." The ShadowClan cats dipped their heads as Tawnyfur and Owlfeather heaved the body into her grave. Flamewhisker slumped into his nest. He shut his eyes trying to not think about his mother's death. He remembered saying goodbye to his father on his last breaths and the time when Thornpaw got swept away by the river. All of those bad memories would hopefully get replaced by new good ones with Mintnose and his kits. *I have no kin in this Clan besides Redwillow and my mate Mint-* His thoughts got interrupted by a wail coming from the warrior's den. It was Buzzardwing. His legs was sprawled out against floor of the warrior's den. There was a half-eaten mouse by his paws, something was trailing out of the mouse; deathberry juice. "Redwillow! Buzzardwing got poisoned! I can see deathberries in the mouse. I think ThunderClan tried to poison us!" The medicine cat came quick to the warrior's den. "We better clean out all of the prey before anyone else gets..." More wails cut off her urgent meow. "I think that might be too late." The cats dashed over to Owlfeather and Tawnyfur. "Both of the elders got it too! I think I hear more wails in the nursery." Redwillow exclaimed. In the middle of her statement Flamewhisker raced to the nursery. Mintnose grabbed Icestorm's kits. The white queen was gasping and wheezing.

Sparkkit struggled free from Mintnose's paws and shot straight to the medicine den and grabbed all the juniper berries she could. "Eat this mother, it could help." The young kit mewed. Her mother struggled to eat the berry. She managed to reach the berry and eat it. Icestorm started panting as she caught her breath. "Sparkkit, you saved my life!" She looked at the little kit who's eyes, were gleaming. "Sparkkit, can you help with the other cats? Tell them to all eat one juniper berry. They may not trust you, but tell them that you're my apprentice." Redwillow looked at the kit who was very exited.

Chapter 6

"Buzzardwing, I am Redwillow's apprentice. I am telling you to eat this berry," Sparkkit tried to convince the old warrior. "I'm not listening to an apprentice, plus, you're still a kit!" Buzzardwing slumped into his nest. His eyes went dull but he was still breathing. "Bluestream! Am I in StarClan?" "No father, it's your kit, Sparkkit, I'm telling you to eat this." "You again! I thought I told you I'm *not* going to eat the berry! It might be another berry!" He mew was ruffled by a berry being stuffed in his mouth. "There, now you are safe, father." "Are you sure? I'm still going to the elders' den." Her father sounded crazy! "I'll go tell Ravenstar." She'd thought he'd be more happy because she had saved her father's life. "Ravenstar, ThunderClan has poisoned us. Tawnyfur and Owlfeather have died and Buzzardwing's as crazy as a hare." The kit reported. "We shall send a battle patrol and yes, tomorrow you and your littermates will receive your apprentice names." The old leader got out of his nest and started to organize a battle patrol in the morning. The dawn patrol had just left and Ravenstar was announcing the battle patrol. "Froststep, your patrol will have Snaketail, Beetail, Flamewhisker, and Dawnfire. My patrol will have Firedash, Sunnypaw, Spderpaw, Whitetail, Birdsong, and Lilyfoot." Froststep's patrol left the camp and went to ThunderClan's. *This is just like the badger, stay low and quiet then attack.* He thought. He scented ThunderClan as he crept into the forest. A border patrol was looking around. "ShadowClan, attack!" Ravenstar yowled as his patrol jumped out of the bushes. The ThunderClan patrol fluffed out their tails and hissed as they collided with the ShadowClan patrols. Flamewhisker saw a ragged smoky gray pelt. He aimed for the cat and went face to face with the ThunderClan deputy; Claweye. He slashed the deputy's muzzle, leaving a scar. Claweye yowled in pain and bit Flamewhisker's pelt. He remembered the only way was to kill. *Warriors don't kill!* But before he knew it, he gripped the smoky tom with his teeth and flung him into the distance just as the badger did to his mother. *What have I done! I killed the ThunderClan deputy!* He shook his head to erase the fact that he was a killer. He recognized a gray striped pelt and curled his lip. He lunged at

Snowfeather and lept at the young she-cat, knocking her. Snowfeather growled and scraped Flamewhiskers body. She nipped his ear. "ThunderClan, retreat!" One of the cats yowled. Ravenstar's muzzle was stained in blood. "That'll teach you to poison out prey!" He snarled. Thrushwing and Twigwhisker were carrying Berrystar's body back. The old leader lost a life. *Did Ravenstar do that? I guess I'm not the only killer.* Flamewhisker sighed in relief. "Where's Claweye?" "I think he already got back to camp." He heard the ThunderClan patrol mutter as they ran back to their camp. Flamewhisker tried to forget what they had said and got back to camp with the others.

Chapter 7

"Until the day you become warriors and a medicine cat you shall be Ashpaw, Lionpaw, and Sparkpaw." "Ashpaw! Lionpaw! Sparkpaw!" Ashpaw's mentor was Pineflame, Lionpaw's mentor was Flamewhisker, and Sparkpaw's mentor was Redwillow. "Sunnypaw and Spiderpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your Clanmates at every cost?" "I do." "Then, from this day forward, you shall be known as Sunnynose and Spiderbark!" "Sunnynose! Spiderbark! Sunnynose! Spiderbark!" Lizardheart and Icestorm had moved to the elder's den with Buzzardwing and Briarflower had died of greencough that took one of Ravenstar's lives. Smokeclaw was given his warrior name. It had also been a few moons since Redwillow found out that Mintnose was having kits. "Redwillow! I think the kits are coming!" Mintnose yowled. Flamewhisker, Pineflame, Firedash and Redwillow hurried to the nursery. "The first one's coming out. Flamewhisker, get a stick and Pineflame, get some borage leaves." Pineflame and Flamewhisker nodded. Flamewhisker went to find the perfect stick for his mate, not too short or not too hollow. He found a thick stick on the floor. He put it in his jaw but it crumbled. *That was a beech stick, mouse-brain!* He meowed to himself. He found another stick and thought it was perfect; and he was correct. Before he got there he heard Mintnose wail. He gripped the stick in his jaws and got back to the nursery. The first kit that came was a golden tom. "He looks just like Thornpaw." Mintnose mewed softly. "And like a flash of lightning." Flamewhisker mewed "We should name him Lightningkit." Mintnose meowed. "The next kit's coming." Redwillow turned her head to Mintnose and Flamewhisker. "It's a brown tom like Scratchpelt." Pineflame meowed. "He's a jumpy one too, let's name him Bouncekit." Flamewhisker chuckled. "A third one's coming! It looks like another brown tom." Redwillow purred. She was so happy to see how much kits were coming. "We should name him Mudkit." Mintnose purred. "It looks like Mudkit's not breathing!" Flamewhisker gasped. The little brown kit had been born dead. "There's one more. It looks like a tortoiseshell she-kit." Redwillow meowed. Mintnose bit down on the stick. "Don't worry,

it's over." Flamewhisker snuggled into Mintnose. "The she-kit has bright green eyes like you, we should name her Brightkit." Flamewhisker purred. "It's a wonderful name for our wonderful kit."

Chapter 8

Brightkit, Lightningkit, and Bouncekit were play-fighting when Mintnose called, "Kits, it's time for your nap." "But we're not tired." Lightningkit protested while his littermates rolled around. "You can't play much longer." "Why?" "It's going to rain." "Then we'll play in the rain." "I'll have to clean all the mud off you." When Mintnose mentioned mud it reminded her of her dead kit, Mudkit. "We can clean ourselves." "Then you can play, but don't ask me to clean you when you're all muddy and tired." Mintnose retorted. "Can we have a badger ride?" "I can't give you one and your father is training Lionpaw. "Lionpaw's a mouse-brain." Lightningkit growled. "Be nice to Lionpaw." Mintnose narrowed her eyes at her kit as she licked her kit. "I thought you said you weren't going to clean us." "I guess you're right." Mintnose meowed as she put down the golden kit. "Brightkit! Bouncekit! She said we can keep on playing!" Lightningkit squeaked. Mintnose watched her kits go out of the nursery then started to wash herself. A few moments later, Flamewhisker came in with his fur ruffled. "This is what happens when you teach an apprentice to fight." He chuckled as he shook his fur. "I remember someone just like that with Briarflower." Mintnose purred as Flamewhisker settled down next to her. He looked around the nursery. "Where are the kits?" He asked. "They went to go play." "What if they get hurt?" Mintnose hadn't thought of that. She raced out of the den to search for her kits, Flamewhisker followed after. "Help! Help! Bouncekit is drowning!" She heard Brightkit yowl. *I don't want my kit to have the same death as my brother!* Flamewhisker dashed through the bushes to find Bouncekit struggling to get back onto land. Just like Thornpaw, the current swept him away. "Aaaaaah!" He wailed as the river carried him to the lake. "How did this happen?" Flamewhisker yowled. "We were trying to wash ourselves in the river and Bouncekit fell in." Lightningkit wailed. A silver-furred apprentice came out of the bushes with a brown scrap of fur, panting. "I believe this is yours." He dropped Bouncekit on the shore. "You should be more careful with your kits next time. I found him half-drowned in the river. By the way, I'm Silverpaw from RiverClan." Silverpaw meowed. He seemed old enough to be a

warrior. "Thank you for saving our kit's life. You should tell Stormstar about it, he might make you a warrior." Flamewhisker dipped his head at Silverpaw. "I'd better get back to camp, they'll be wondering where I am. Goodbye, little kit." He touched noses with Bouncekit then went back to camp. "We'd better be going back too." Flamewhisker looked at the river one last time. *Hopefully that doesn't happen again.*

Chapter 9

"Cats of all Clans, settle down. ShadowClan has a lot of news. Prey is running well. The deathberries," Ravenstar glared at Berrystar. "Has made one of our warriors, Buzzardwing go crazy. Because of that, he, Icestorm, and Lizardheart have retired to the elders' den with our elders; Owlfeather and Tawnyfur. One of our warriors; Briarflower, has died from greencough shortly after. Mintnose has given birth to four lovely kits. She has named them Mudkit, Bouncekit, Lightningkit, and Brightkit. Mudkit was sadly, been born dead. We also have three new apprentices; Ashpaw, Lionpaw, and Sparkpaw." "ThunderClan also has a lot of news. After the fight of deathberries with ShadowClan, our deputy Claweye has been missing. We blame ShadowClan for killing him." Flamewhisker looked at his paws in guilt. "Our new deputy is Moonfrost. Acorndusk has given birth to Claweye's kits and has named them Cloudkit and Hawkkit. " Berrystar meowed. "RiverClan has plenty of fish in the river as well as kits. One of our apprentices, Silverpaw, found Mintnose's kit; Bouncekit in the river. We have given him his warrior name Silverwing!" Stormstar meowed. Silverwing glanced at Mintnose and Flamewhisker who was also looking and smiled. "WindClan has plenty of prey and my son, Longwhisker, has died of greencough. We held vigil for him a quarter moon ago. We still grieve for him." Whitestar meowed. "SkyClan has plenty of prey and our leader; Blazestar has lost his last life and I am the new SkyClan leader. The deputy is now Cinnamonfur." Cherrystar meowed. All the cats parted back to camp.

Chapter 10

"Brightpaw! Lightningpaw! Bouncepaw!" The first cats to cheer their names were, of course their mother and father. Moons had passed and Brightpaw was given Smokeclaw, Lightningpaw was given Lilyfoot, and Bouncepaw was given Strikefur. Icestorm and Froststep have died and Flamewhisker was deputy. Birdsong, Redwillow, Snaketail, and Beetail had retired to the elders' den for moons of peace and Ashcloud and Lionflash got their warrior names along with Sparktail getting her medicine cat name. Flamewhisker had wished his mother and father were alive to see his kits at least become apprentices. Everything had changed so fast he could even remember getting his warrior name like it was yesterday. "Mintnose, why don't you return to your warrior duties?" Flamewhisker asked Mintnose. "I like being in the nursery, seeing the kits become apprentices. I don't want to be a warrior again. I hate seeing cats getting killed." She admitted. "I think you're strong enough to be a warrior for both of us." She put her muzzle in his orange pelt. "I understand. I have to go organize a hunting patrol, would like it to be your last one?" "I'm fine. Bring me back a squirrel!" She meowed as he started the patrol. He chose Moonstorm, Sunnynose, Spiderbark, Pineflame, Firedash, Lionflash, Ashcloud, and Dawnfire. *Be the warrior for both of us.* Mintnose's words rang in his ear. *I really don't want to be the warrior for both of us. I just want her to be by my side for the rest of my life.*

To be Continued...

This book is continued in Lightning and Brightness book 2: Written in the Stars